

# Battle Ground Town Council

## Meeting Minutes, April 12, 2021

Attending: Matt Coppock, Steve Hahn, Greg Jones, Mary Jo Totten, Eric Burns, Ron Holladay, Jerry Burk, Georgia Jones. Absent: James Miller

Guests: Colin Dale, Dave Buck, Colin Sullivan, Madonna Ritter, Dan Gemmecke, Joe Kline

Matt Coppock opened the meeting at 6:5 p.m. with roll call.

### **Contracted Services**

Capital Plan - Dave Buck said the capital plan is in review and input from Council on this working document is welcomed. It is ready for the rate study financial consultant.

Hawks Nest - The BFS field crew started survey work early and surprised some property owners because the notification letters had not reached them yet. Colin Dale said they apologize for the surprise but they were trying to get ahead on the project using schedule time available. One property owner requested more notice and BFS is available to them at any time. Dave Buck requested a Committee to work with GM Development and the financial consultant. Mary Jo Totten is willing to serve on that committee.

Tomahawk Lane - The project is pending the announcement of CCMG 2020-2 application details. The intent is still to plan around potential grant funds to enable the total project scope.

CCMG 2020-1 - If the current application is approved, BFS will request a supplement to the original project for the bid and inspection phase.

Northgate – A revised site plan was discussed along with the proposed change in road specification for truck traffic. The frontage road would be closed and relocated to the west side of the building site. One consideration is whether the new road would be a public street. There is a desire to request INDOT approval for a traffic signal on SR43 to improve safety. A traffic study would likely be required.

Main Street – The 2021 storm sewer project design was discussed. Greg Jones mentioned the concern about elevation, whether the storm system would be efficient without installing a curb. Main Street between Jefferson and the railroad track is a problem during rain events. The location of new water main should consider the future plan to lower the street and further improve the storm water system.

### **Attorney**

Legislation in the 2021 session may affect condemnation statutes. Eric will inform the council if the changes affect the Hawks Nest project.

Changes in Indiana statute will affect virtual meetings of government units. The change will likely allow some members to attend virtually, with requirement that 50% of members be physically present. To participate and vote, every member must be seen and heard. A local resolution is needed to approve the use of virtual attendance for that unit.

An new statute for public notice when two dates are required, allows a unit to publish print notice the first time, and use website publication for the second notice. There was a failure by a print publisher, to

publish the second notice for the Fire Territory ordinance. The council will meet April 19 via Zoom to complete the process to consider and vote on Ordinance 2021-595.

**Minutes** – Motion by Greg Jones to approve the minutes of March 8 and March 29. Second of Steve Hahn, motion carried. 4 Aye, 1 absent.

**Register of Claims** – Motion by Mary Jo Totten to approve the Register of Claims, March 9 to April 12 in the amount \$106,552.57. Second of Steve Hahn, motion carried. 4 Aye 1 absent

#### **Clerk-Treasurer**

The March fund report indicates that at the end of the quarter, funds are at expected levels. Line items for Professional Services need budget transfer due to project expenses that were not known at budget time last year.

Muni Link conversion should be complete for June bills. Georgia Jones shared a sample of the new bill format which includes consumption history. Software training will continue in April and May, with “go live” on or after May 1.

A **motion** was brought forward by Mary Jo Totten to approve Resolution 21-114, honoring Philip D Lehman for 50 years of volunteer service to Battle Ground and the Tippecanoe Township Fire Department. Second of Steve Hahn, motion carried with unanimous vote. 4 Aye 1 absent

#### **Police**

Jerry Burk reported the new radios purchased on a grant were delivered. He suggested the older radios that are set to the town’s communication frequency be placed in the street department truck and the backhoe. Motion by Steve Hahn to approve the transfer two DHF Motorola radios from the Police department to the street department. Second of Mary Jo Totten, motion carried. 4 Aye, 1 absent. The two remaining police frequency radios are retained in inventory at this time.

#### **Utilities and Street Department**

Ron Holladay asked the council to consider a letter and invoice received from Kyle Rottler, owner of a property on SR225 that has a utility easement. There was a sewer main repaired in the easement in 2020, and Rottler asked to have the finish grade smoothed out. There was miscommunication about when this would occur. Rottler presented an invoice for \$1350 after he hired someone to do the work. The town attorney will need to see details about the easement to help determine the appropriate resolution to this request.

Ron Holladay obtained a quote for cleaning and repairing a section of wastewater main at the railroad crossing on Main Street, including installing a fiberglass patch, for a total \$6,560. Matt Coppock would like to see the video of that section. There was no decision on how to accomplish the cleaning.

Lift stations are collecting rags (flushable wipes) and becoming a problem in multiple areas of the system. There were three vac-truck calls since December for one location and the Main Lift is a constant concern.

Drainage in Battleview Heights is a continuing problem. Madonna Ritter, a property owner, attends this meeting to encourage discussion about the lack of drainage in the county ditch that is meant to serve the subdivision. The original subdivision specifications call for a 7’ concrete drain in an interior, which Ron has inspected and notices utility obstructions but finds no evidence for the concrete installation.

Residents in area served by the county ditch pay annual ditch tax to the county, and it seems the county should be involved in the repairs for ditch failure. Approximately 40 lots are affected when the ditch does not function correctly. Madonna Ritter mentioned that weeds and subsequently mosquitos are a problem for the property owners, when they can't mow due to swampy conditions. County employees told her they are not responsible for the interior ditch between Warrior and Battleview Drive. Ron Holladay and Dave Buck will meet with Zach Beasley to see what can be worked out to improve the ditch function for CR 600 N, Warrior and Battleview.

### **Redevelopment Commission**

Greg Jones reported Todd Starr is a new appointee to the Battle Ground Redevelopment Commission. Todd is a BG resident, a surveyor, and owner of Starr Associates survey and civil engineering company. The commission will meet every other month for awhile.

### **Area Plan**

Area Plan is evaluating the use of shipping containers as storage units on residential property.

### **Committees**

**Transportation** – waiting on word about CCMG application.

**Public Relations / Communication** – Town banners have been placed, thank you Ron and Larry. A spring newsletter is still in planning stages. Georgia Jones asked the council is there is interest in purchasing holiday decoration for the light poles downtown and on Railroad Street. The cost would be approximately \$5600. Steve Hahn asked if this could be mentioned in the newsletter to see if there is interest to raise funds by donation.

**Strategic Planning** – no report

**Citizen Advisory Groups** – Greg Jones did receive responses to a sidewalk survey placed in the April "Around Town" flyer. As more participation is received, it will help the council make decisions about the 2021 project.

### **Old Business**

**Town Brand:** Greg Jones found that the council can apply for signage on the interstate that would be specific to Battle Ground. He will send a link to the web site for council to look over the application process.

**Town Hall:** Georgia Jones asked for a reference for an appraiser to do parcel valuation.

### **New Business**

Steve Hahn asked about 209 Main Street, if the street repair will be completed soon. It should be 2-3 weeks before the asphalt plant is open again and all the patch locations in town can be resurfaced. Matt contacted Fox Paving to get a better idea of date.

**Motion** to adjourn 7:56 p.m. by Steve Hahn.

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Georgia Jones, Clerk Treasurer

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James Miller, Council President